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LEAP-FROG

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NOTES OF THE WEEK

THE WEEK

The notable event of the week is the occupation by Japan of the air and naval bases granted to her by Indo-China. Large reinforcements are being sent by Japan to Thailand-Indo-China border and it is said that demands are being made on Thailand. There are also reports of troop movements to Manchukuo.

America has given a stern warning to Vichy against giving way to Nazi pressure—a step which endangers Amercian security. Mr. Sumner Welles has specifically stated that the attitude of the United States Government towards Vichy "will be governed by the manifest effectiveness with which those authorities endeavour to protect these territories from domination and control by those Powers which are seeking to extend their rule by force and conquest or by threat thereof." Vichy has replied that the position of Indo-China was peculiar owing to political and geographical reasons and that "the disproportion between Japanese forces and the meagre effectives at France's disposal in Indo-China fully explains the position which

confronted her and the inevitable consequences." The United States Government have prohibited the export of motor fuels and oils for use of aircraft for places outside the western hemisphere. This directly affects Japan.

Things in Norway are not proceeding satisfactorily to Germany. A state of emergency has been proclaimed throughout the country. Police have been given far-reaching powers to maintain order and martial law will be introduced wherever necessary. The causes for these panicky measures are discontent throughout Norway and sabotage activities by the Norwegians.

The Third Canadian Division has arrived in Great Britain.

It is stated that Axis losses during the first seven months of the current year in planes were 2,500 destroyed by Great Britain alone. Of these 433 were destroyed last month for a British loss of 308.

Stubborn resistance by the Russians continues all along the line. It is stated that during the first three weeks of the war the Germans lost a million men. Their losses up-to-date are placed at a million and a half.

The Finnish press reports the presence of a large British Naval force in the Arctic. It is stated that the British bombing of Petsamo was not an isolated attack but part of a British-Russian plan for large-scale operations.

There are clear indications that the Battle of the Atlantic is turning in favour of the Allies. The reasons are the successful bombardment of German naval and air bases, making it difficult for submarines and bombers to operate against British shipping, the Soviet-German war which has necessitated concentration of the Luftwaffe in the East and the activities of the American Neutrality Patrol which has considerably reduced the strain on the British Navy.

It is stated that the armament of one of Britain's newest long-range day and night fighters—the Bristol Beau-fighter—consists of four cannon-guns and six machine-guns. Its speed is 330 miles per hour and it has a range of 1,500 miles. It has two Bristol Hercules engines, air-cooled with sleeve valve and radial type of power units. It carries 550 gallons of petrol and there are separate oil tanks for each engine with a capacity of 18 gallons each.

America has promised economic help to Russia of all kinds with priority on orders. The annual trade agreement with Russia has been renewed. Russia has requested shipping facilities and the United States has promised to expedite the delivery of materials. Unlimited licences have been issued for the export of articles to the Soviet Government. Large quantities of British goods are also on their way to Russia and it is stated that the British are doing everything possible to supply Russian needs.

There are persistent reports in Washington that President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill are to meet.

THE BATTLE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

An important convoy has passed through the Mediterranean in the full knowledge of the enemy and despite all his efforts to destroy it. The Battle of the Mediterranean is still being fought and there is no room for complacency. But the passage of the convoy exposes the hollowness of German boasts of their domination of the Eastern Mediterranean. It is true that the Italian Fleet had numerical superiority at the beginning of the war and before the French collapse. Though the Italian Navy is still there, it is now considerably reduced. The enemy has an advantage in air in narrow waters; but these disadvantages have certainly not driven the Royal Navy from the Mediterranean nor have they prevented traffic in these waters. It is significant that, though there was considerable activity in the narrow seas south of Sardinia and in the Sicilian channel and though the attack on the convoy lasted 27 hours, yet it proceeded on its way and arrived with only one ship damaged and with a loss of one destroyer and six aircraft.

A typical Nazi boast contained in a broadcast topical talk from Berlin stated : "From Crete the German Navy and Air Force can now exert very effective control of the relatively small stretch of sea between Crete and the North African Coast . . . This means that it will from now on be almost impossible for Britain to ship any goods throughout the Mediterranean." If the Luftwaffe is as powerful as it is stated to be, then (i) Axis shipping would move in the Aegean Sea and (ii) the British Navy could no longer use naval bases in the area and would be driven well to the West of Crete; but, as a matter of fact, both these consequences have not happened though, of course, Axis pressure is continuing.

IRAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Iran has definitely declared her neutrality in the present war, but considerable German infiltration is a potential danger to the rear of Britain and Russia, as well as to Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan and India. The number of Germans in Iran is variously estimated to be between two to five thousand and there are many Germans in key positions in industry. Tourists are, it is stated, arriving in large numbers, but it is hoped that the advice of the British authorities to Iran not to allow this infiltration will have its desired effect. In his speech in the House of Commons on Wednesday last, Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, repeated this warning. After pointing out the danger to her own interests and independence

in allowing this large infiltration he said: "I trust the Iranian Government will not fail to heed this warning given in all friendliness and in all sincerity and that they will take the necessary measures now to deal with this situation." Of course, Germans have perfected the process of infiltration. First, specialists are introduced as key-men in industry, secondly, these constitute themselves propaganda agents and fifth-columnists and thirdly this advance guard is reinforced by 'tourists.' These methods have been at work in Rumania, Bulgaria and other countries and in Iran, the 'tourists'' stage has begun. Iran, of course, should be wary of Germany's policy in the Middle East. She wants to get economic control of Turkey, Iraq and probably Syria right down to the head of the Persian Gulf. Economic control means necessarily control of Iraqi and Irani oil-fields and later, political domination.

The striking contrast between German policy and British policy in the Middle East should be noted and emphasised, especially because the German radio is grossly misrepresenting British aims. The matter was made crystal clear by Mr. Eden in his speech in the House of Commons on Wednesday last. He said: "We have said over and over again that this country has no territorial ambitions in this war. We seek no territory anywhere. We did not go to war to enlarge our frontiers. We went to war because the Nazi menace threatened the life of Europe and our own lives and freedom as it threatens to-day the people of the world. We went to war to resist aggression, not to steal prizes or pilfer loot. It follows that there can be, on our part, only one policy towards all those nations who live in the area bounded on the west by the Suez Canal and on the east by the frontiers of India. For all the countries who live in that area, we have only one policy. We wish them to live their own lives in security and at peace. After the Great War, in Iraq, and after considerable expenditure of money, we set up an independent Iraqi state and withdrew our forces. The world will have to look far, before it will find any sign of action of that kind in Hitler's policy. When our conflict with Germany and Italy is over, we shall do our utmost to assist those lands of the Middle East to enjoy a free and independent life.

"Meanwhile, our forces of men and material in the Middle East are being strengthened for their next forward blow. I suggest to those lands in the Middle East that the blows which these forces will strike will be blows struck for their own independence as much as for ours. That carries with it the corollary that those countries must co-operate with us in ensuring that they do not afford an opportunity to Germany or to the Axis to create troubles, disturbances, upheavals and risings to further their war efforts."

GERMANY'S STRIKING POWER

There is now a note of optimism in the Allied press in regard to the Russo-German war, though that optimism must be very cautious. The Russians are counter-attacking in a number of points and they are able to mobilize and bring up large reserves. No major strategical centre has passed into German hands and Germany's aim to dislocate Russian mobilization has utterly failed. Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev have not yet been captured and Germany has to make great strides before she can succeed in this attempt. The proportion of Russian territory actually overrun during six weeks can be gauged from the fact that, while Smolensk is 300 miles from the German frontier, Moscow is nearly 200 miles further on. From Moscow to Urals is 1,100 miles and from Moscow to the Caucasus still further. The "blitz" has so far failed and the fact that explanations have to be offered to the German people means that Germany has lost all hopes of a quick victory. The impediments to the realization of Hitler's ambitions are forests, marshes, mosquitoes, heat, rain and bad roads, according to the German radio. Further, the German attempt to represent the Russian campaign as a crusade against Bolshevism and as a holy war has failed. From Sweden a small Fascist group and a few retired officers volunteered; from Catholic Spain volunteers were very few, from Denmark 100 have volunteered, from Belgium less than a dozen and from Holland none.

The remarkable stand by Russia has provided those who are fighting against Germany with a great opportunity. The Nazi war machine is in danger of being subjected to attrition, while Great Britain, the Dominions, and the Allies are fast approaching the state of being fully armed. Whatever may be the result of the war against Russia, the fact remains that Germany's striking power both on land and in the air would have been considerably weakened by next spring. She is now on the defensive in the west with the Royal Air Force striking heavy blows. The day-light sweeps over Northern France and the severe attacks on German transports have compelled the withdrawal of German fighter pilots to the western front. German production has also been slowed down by the repeated hammering by the Royal Air Force of industrial targets.

JAPAN COMPLAINS OF "ENCIRCLEMENT"

There is plenty of evidence to prove that the Japanese drive in the Far East is intimately connected with German strategy. Germany is putting great pressure on Vichy to lease her African bases to her, while at the same time she is forcing her Axis partner in the Far East to do likewise in order to weaken Allied strength. Japan is adopting familiar totalitarian tactics. She is now complaining of her being encircled. 'Encirclement' is a magic word, bringing back to one's mind Germany's allegation of her being encircled by the Democracies before she embarked on her

mad venture in Europe. Mr. Spender, the Australian Minister for War, commenting upon the excuse that the agreement with Indo-China for granting air and naval bases was dictated by the necessity for protecting herself, says that this was only a cynical pretext for unblushing aggression. Three facts are clear: all Japanese shipping to Australia, the United States of America and South America has been stopped. Japan has sent troops to Manchukuo possibly for attacking Russia, though the fact that she is outmatched in the East may put a curb on her ambitious desire to strike at Russia while she is engaged in a life and death struggle against Germany. Japan has also sent large troops to the Thai border. But when asked why, a Japanese official would only say that it was a military matter about which he will not say anything. There are reports that she is demanding monopoly of Thailand's production of rubber, tin and rice together with the right to use certain naval and air bases in return for the possession of the province of Laos and the ancient city of Angkor. This means that Thailand would, by consenting to the demands, become a supporter of Japan in her aggression.

THREAT TO THAILAND

There are certain factors which are not altogether satisfactory. It is reported that Thailand is on the point of recognizing or has already recognized the puppet state of Manchukuo. Further, an agreement has been reached between the Yokohama Specie Bank and the Thai Banking Syndicate for a credit of 16 million yens to be utilized for facilitating Japanese imports from Thailand—a step to offset the freezing of Japanese assets by America, Great Britain, Dominions and India. Further, there is the undoubted fact that Thailand is indebted to Japan for her mediation between herself and Indo-China. It will be remembered that in February last, the Vichy Government gave way and Thailand got practically the whole of the territory which was wrested from her in a series of encroachments from 1893.

Thailand has non-aggression pacts with France and with Britain and a treaty with Japan of friendship and mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity. A good-will mission has visited India and she has always been earnest in her profession of friendship to Great Britain. Her geographical position is obviously unsatisfactory. She has French Indo-China in the East, Burma in the North and West and the Malaya States to the South, with no common frontier with China. She has about 1,300 miles of road completed or under construction and nearly 2,000 miles of railway. Thailand has an army of 21 battalions, and 13 cavalry regiments as well as gunners and fortress troops. The Air Corps is a part of the army and consists of 207 planes of all types. The Navy has two coastal defence ships, one destroyer and 12 torpedo boats, 4 submarines and 12 coastal motor torpedo boats. The more modern of Thailand's vessels are of Japanese construction.

Reuter reports that Thailand is experiencing untold difficulties and it is stated that she may be compelled to behave in a "realistic" way. America and Great Britain have not guaranteed the integrity of her territory and, in view of the Japan's threat, she may succumb. As a matter of fact, it is said that events may be expected to move fast. The American view is that the safety of America is being threatened by the Japanese policy of aggression. As regards the Vichy-Japan deal, Mr. Sumner Welles has stated very clearly that it menaces American security and America has already taken economic measures against Japan and also prohibited the export of motor fuels and oils for the use of aircraft to countries outside the western hemisphere. It is certain that this embargo will have a serious effect on Japan, especially because the ban extends to certain raw stocks from which aviation petrol, etc., are being derived.

REACTIONS

The defences of the Philippines have been strengthened and there is the American Navy about ready for any emergency. Great Britain has demanded no special rights and privileges for herself, but obviously she is very particular that no rights and privileges not granted to Great Britain should be granted to any other power.

Mr. Hughes, the Australian Naval Minister, has made a statement to the effect that Great Britain is able, if necessary, to send her Fleet into the Pacific. The announcement has been welcomed in Singapore. It is of great significance that an American who has visited the defences of Malaya has paid a tribute to the efficiency of the British forces in that country. He has further stated that the Australian soldiers and Indian regiments there are well equipped and more of these have arrived in Singapore which is busy in completing arrangements.

As regards Burma, it is known that the Royal Air Force there has been greatly strengthened especially by the arrival of American-built Brewster Buffalo multi-gun fighters and she is well-equipped for offensive and defensive air action. Aerodromes have been and are being built in the frontiers with China and Thailand and plants for the maintenance and repair of aircraft have been provided. It has been recently stated that British and Australian troops have arrived in Burma for training in bush-warfare.

It is well recognized that Japanese acquisition of the aerodromes at Siemreap, Kompongtom and Pnompenh in Cambodia on the border of Thai territory or close to it, is a very serious matter. That is a threat to Burma, the Burma Road, Singapore and Dutch East

Indies. As the Australian Minister for War has put it "Indo-China, Malaya and Thailand are as close neighbours to Australia as to Japan. We look with misgiving on the arrival of Japanese forces in Indo-China." But the understanding among the ABCD countries is complete as regards any menace to the *status quo* in the Far East and the outlook, though serious, need not unnecessarily alarm the public mind, the preparations for defensive and offensive action being so very satisfactory.

WARNING BY UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN

Both Mr. Cordell Hull and Mr. Eden have administered a warning to Japan against any encroachments in Thailand about which there can be no mistake. At a Press Conference on Wednesday Mr. Hull said that Japanese move into Thailand would be considered as a step menacing American security and endangering American territory in the Pacific. She was opposed to any move in the Pacific and elsewhere, including Thailand, and viewed reports about Japan's demand of military concessions in that country with increasing concern. Mr. Hull expressed the United States interest in the integrity and independence of Thailand.

Mr. Eden was even more specific. Speaking in the House of Commons on Wednesday he pointed—and this is important :—

"As to the position in Thailand, the British Government have not failed to note that the Japanese newspapers have recently been using the same kind of language regarding Thailand as they had employed before the Japanese demands for bases in Indo-China. For that reason, on July 31, His Majesty's Ambassador in Tokyo drew the attention of the Japanese Foreign Minister to this newspaper campaign which stated, among other things, that we are intriguing in Thailand, that British military preparations are threatening Japanese interests and that, in consequence, Thailand should in her own interests come to an easy understanding with Japan, the power which controls Indo-China.

"Our Ambassador pointed out that this kind of thing could only mean that someone in authority in Japan was endeavouring to manufacture a case for Japanese intervention in Thai territory." He added that if a step of this kind were taken, coming on the top of the recent action in Indo-China, it must inevitably give rise to a most serious situation—between Great Britain and Japan. Sir Sir Robert Craig then gave to Admiral Toyoda a most formal assurance that all these reports of British aggressive designs against Thailand were of course utterly baseless.

"The truth is we have for over a century had friendly relations with Thailand. Our policy has no other object than to maintain those relations but it is no less true that any action which would threaten that independence and integrity of Thailand would be a matter of immediate concern to this country, more particularly as threatening the security of Singapore."

Mr. Eden added, in serious tones, "I hope these words may yet be heeded."

MR. ATTLEE ON JUSTIFICATION FOR CONFIDENCE

During the debate on the war situation in the House of Commons, Mr. Attlee described the satisfactory features in the present phase of the struggle. The invasion of England, he warned the public, had only been postponed, not abandoned. Instructions had been issued to bring the preparations against invasion to the highest state of preparedness. His points may be summarized as follows :—

(1) Hitler was now fighting on two fronts, which Germany had hitherto striven to avoid.

(2) Germany is now engaged in a gigantic struggle over a wide front in Russia. Russians are putting up a magnificent resistance with a determination, courage and fighting quality which has surprised Germans so much so that they consider that such pertinacity is not quite playing the game. Great Britain is sending quickly war supplies to Russia and "the activities of our Fleet at Kirkines and elsewhere in the North show how close is our physical contact with the Russian forces."

(3) British bombers are delivering increasingly heavy attacks on Western and Central Germany, without cessation, with growing weight and their range is increasing while the nights lengthen. In July, 70 attacks were made on towns in Germany and 76 on German occupied towns. There are also heavy day-light bombing raids.

(4) In July, in the Middle East, the Royal Air Force delivered 126 attacks on various targets. Great Britain lost 285 aircraft while the enemy lost 410 units.

(5) The Battle of the Atlantic was proceeding in all its fury, but though Great Britain has suffered severe losses, "we can look back on the last two months with reasonable satisfaction." Imports are being maintained at a satisfactory figure. The German story to have destroyed 140,000 tons in a convoy recently was an exaggeration of between 350 to 700 per cent.

(6) On the North Sea and the Atlantic the enemy had lost in July of this year 69 ships of 291,000 tons besides small craft, barges, tugs, etc. In the Mediterranean the corresponding figures were 23 ships of 168,000 tons, besides 30 ships hit and damaged.

(7) Turkey and Cyprus should now feel greatly heartened by the presence of British forces on the Turko-Syrian frontier. There

was only a small pocket of Italians held up in Gondar, while the Emperor of Abyssinia had begun his work of reconstruction with his Cabinet and British Advisers. British offensive patrol was busy on the Libyan frontier and in Tobruk. "Day by day, week by week, tanks, guns, planes and supplies continue to arrive in the Middle East and the reorganization and to aiming for the next forward move go on."

(8) "Another fact which differentiates our situation from that of last year is the vastly increased scope of assistance we are receiving from the United States."

(9) "Important as is the physical help we are receiving, no less encouraging is the sense of spiritual unity between the English-speaking people. By independent but parallel action in relation to Japan, the United States and the British Commonwealth have again affirmed their community of interests wherever liberty is threatened."

(10) There was clear evidence of the rising tide of resistance to Hitler's rule in all invaded countries. From the start there had been sullen resentment and growing opposition. This increased month by month. The "V" campaign was no stunt but a spontaneous expression of the desires and hopes of civilized human beings who longed for deliverance from barbarian rule.

Mr. Attlee concluded: "The nations in Europe look to us not only to destroy Hitlerism but to show by practice as well as by precept the true alternative to Hitler's 'New Order'. We cannot foresee either the time or the circumstances of our victory: we cannot tell the trials and difficulties that we have yet to endure, but we know that when victory comes, as come it will, we shall have to take a leading part in helping to establish a world of peace, freedom and social justice."

WHAT IS CO-PROSPERITY SPHERE?

Japan complains that her aims are being misunderstood and that she really wants "a harmonious world under one heaven." What have her statesmen said about the "New Order" in the East and about "the co-prosperity sphere?" Mr. Matsuoka, till recently Foreign Minister, had declared that it extends beyond Japan, Manchukuo, and China as far as Thailand and Burma in the south-west, and as far as New Caledonia in the south-east—that is to say, it stops short of Australia and New Zealand. Admiral Takahashi is less modest. According to him, it includes in the area Australia and New Zealand, Burma, and all the land eastwards to the 180th meridian. Mr. Matsuoka's famous parliamentary speech of February 24, 1941, in which he suggested that the white races should cede their possessions in Oceania to the yellow races, specified an area 1,200 miles from north to south and 1,000 miles from east to west, but also stated that the area had sufficient natural resources to support a population of 600 to 800 million. Large parts, if not all, of the Netherlands Indies were included in the area referred to. Mr. Matsuoka specified that he had in mind New Guinea among other countries, but not Australia, New Zealand, or Hawaii, and an authoritative statement later added that the Philippines were also excluded.

What are the implications of this policy? Here they are, according to a writer in *The Bulletin of International News*:—

"On its economic side, the Japanese policy is apparently very closely similar to that of Germany. The unit proposed to be built up by Japan in Eastern Asia and the Pacific is, like German-dominated Europe, an area aiming at self-sufficiency, with an industrial State as the centre and primary producing countries grouped round it. The industrial State, Japan, has a far higher standard of living than the satellite States, but a far lower population, and it is clearly very much in her immediate interest, both from the economic and from the military point of view, to prevent them from treading the path of industrialization by which she herself has advanced from extreme poverty, and which, in view of the extreme agricultural overpopulation existing in most of them, is their most obvious, if not their only line of escape from their poverty also. The development of China or of Netherlands Indies, for instance, would probably, under normal circumstances, follow lines somewhat similar to those followed by British India, but India's rapid approach to self-sufficiency in cotton tissues, for instance, is a spectacle which the Japanese must view with dismay. It is little wonder that they wish to prevent it from being repeated elsewhere, within their main trading area. Economic development in the satellite States means the development of means of resistance to Japan, and a considerable modification of the position which she has enjoyed hitherto as the only industrial and relatively advanced country in a vast area populated mostly by overcrowded and unresisting peasants.

The power of military resistance to-day rests more than ever before upon power of production, and the tendency to divide the world up into economic spheres of influence of the Great Powers is in fact, apart from being an attempt to purchase freedom from competition and the pressure of economic change on the part of economic interests in the powerful States, an effort to fasten military domination upon backward countries. That this sinister tendency is not universal is demonstrated by, for instance, the assistance which the United States is giving to Latin American countries in their development of secondary industry, as well as by the history of the British Empire. The school of thought which aims at regional self-sufficiency is essentially a totalitarian one, and the real objects of its policy are thoroughly consistent with totalitarian doctrines in general."

GERMAN CAMPAIGN IN RUSSIA

SEVENTH WEEK SEES LITTLE CHANGE

The German High Command has launched a third *blitzkrieg* attempt to break down the terrific resistance of the Soviet armies. Their preparations account for the more stabilized line which has been the feature of the Eastern campaign for the past week. It is considered that this third push by the Nazis may be the turning point in the war. The conditions, however, favour the Soviet. Unlike the enemy, their lines of communication are being well maintained at the moment and if they keep these lines intact, the advantage should be on their side in the third test also. As for the German army, their difficulties must increase as they are drawn farther into Russia. One situation which can be foreseen is that of the German army being bogged in the Russian winter. This might happen if the third *blitzkrieg* which is now in progress proved a failure. Such a situation would render the Germans vulnerable to constant attacks from the Russians, who naturally are accustomed to the severe Russian winter.

In the great battle which has been raging all these days along the fifteen-hundred kilometres front, the Germans have carried out encirclement after encirclement, but Russian attempts to break through have been constantly successful, according to neutral reports. The Germans continue to indulge in tall claims—one this week was the capture of 10,000 prisoners west of Lake Peipus and they have just issued a long communiqué, claiming a break-through at three decisive points, namely, south of the Pripet Marshes in the direction of Smolensk and south of Lake Peipus—but the fact remains that they have not much to show for their pains. And Russian reports reveal that in the first three weeks alone of the Russo-German fighting, German casualties and prisoners amounted to one million men, 2,300 planes and 3,000 tanks and many of the best German divisions were destroyed.

CONFIDENCE IN MOSCOW

Reuter's Special Correspondent in Moscow, indeed, bears testimony to the fact that the atmosphere in Russia's capital grows more and more inspiring as the German campaign moves into its seventh week. German propaganda, with stories that the rear must be cleared before spectacular successes could be achieved, seems to be preparing the German public for a longer Russian war than anybody expected. The coming month will clearly be most critical, but Moscow looks forward with confidence and comparatively unperturbed to air raids. German inability at present to bomb Moscow on a grand scale is due to a number of reasons, one being considerable Soviet activity in the systematic bombing of Nazi aerodromes not far from the front. It may be that with longer nights, bombing will increase, but with excellent anti-aircraft defences, it is likely to be only indiscriminate and indecisive. Generally, numerous reports confirm the impression of Russian heroism and boldness against *blitzkrieg* methods while encirclements of advance tank thrusts, the unnerving effect of guerillas in Poland and West Russia and disappointment at delays have greatly weakened the Nazis' self-assurance and are bewildering the German soldiers who are accustomed to working to a plan. The moral effect of the British bombing of Petsamo is excellent and Finnish press reports speak of the presence of large British Naval forces in the Arctic, coinciding with big Russian troop concentrations in the north. Murmansk, despite reports to the contrary a month ago, is certainly still in Russian hands. The German-Finnish movement around Lake Ladoga does not seem to have made any advance in the Petrozavodsk direction and is no longer mentioned in any communiqué. The attempted Finnish advance across the Karelian Isthmus is equally inconclusive but the push towards Leningrad from the south-west and the attempt to cut off Leningrad from Moscow is a bigger Nazi ambition. The Germans have pushed towards Kholm, some 80 miles due south of Lake Ilmen, on the north-south road from Leningrad to Moscow, and midway between Leningrad and Smolensk. To the east of this town, the country is mainly made up of marshes and forests. Kholm itself lies on Lovat River, a strongly defended natural barrier to the foot of Valdai heights. On reaching Kholm, the Germans might attempt a drive in either direction. A push in the direction of Moscow would indicate an attempt to extend the Smolensk wedge northwards and increase the pressure against Moscow by means of a semi-circular formation. But this operation is still uncertain and tentative. The German claim that they are " completing the encirclement of Russian troops in the Smolensk area " is meaningless, unless it merely means that certain local Russian troops are encircled on the intricate front, just as German troops are encircled at some points by the Russians.

BATTLE FOR KIEV

A recent Soviet communiqué mentions two new directions in which fighting is reported, namely, Korosten, north-west from Kiev, and Byelaya-Tserkov, due south of it. It seems clear that, having failed with a direct thrust against Kiev, the Germans are attempting a pincer thrust, aiming at the encirclement of Kiev and the cutting off of the railway main line parallel to, and west of, the Dnieper, which is an important link between Central Russia and the Ukrainian mining areas and the granary surrounding Nikolaev. The success of this thrust would also cut off Odessa,

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GERMANY NEEDS A QUICK VICTORY

A GOEBBELS CALENDAR

Russia's remarkable stand against violent and treacherous attack has disappointed the German hopes expressed in the following series of boasts :

NOVEMBER 1940.—" In half a year I will talk to you again, and you will see that my prophecy of victory will have been correct." *Goebbels to Scandinavian correspondents in Berlin.*

MARCH 1941.—" I affirm again that before the year is over Germany will finish the war."—*Goebbels to Spanish correspondents in Berlin.*

JUNE 26, 1941.—" The Soviet army has already been defeated in the first days."—*Goebbels in " Dienst aus Deutschland ".*

JUNE 30, 1941.—" The German advance will now be practically unopposed."—*Rome Radio, quoting Berlin.*

JULY 7, 1941.—" The Russians have thrown in their last reserves."—*German Army communique.*

JULY 13, 1941.—" From now onwards the interior of the Soviet Union lies open to our victoriously advancing troops." *German home broadcast.*

JULY 15, 1941.—" It is an indisputable fact that the Russian army has ceased to exist as an entity."—*Rome Radio's Portuguese broadcast.*

JULY 20, 1941.—" The fighting ability of the Red Army has been destroyed."—*German broadcast.*

JULY 21, 1941.—" It is now only a matter of days before Leningrad will be captured or evacuated."—*German broadcast in Norwegian.*

Every week that passes without substantial German successes, every week in which the Russian armies remain intact and their guerilla bands active behind the enemy's forward units, means another nail in Hitler's coffin.

Signs are multiplying that the German intention was a swift and spectacular success in Russia, followed by another of Hitler's notorious " peace-offers " to the nations that stand across his path to world-domination.

Britain has refused, and will always refuse, to parley with those whose word is worthless. But the Germans have been told by their leaders that the world will soon accept Nazi tyranny as a permanent system.

If Hitler wins the battle of Russia, the peril of all other nations would at once become more acute. If, on the other hand, Russia, with British assistance, can hold the fort, the opportunity will arise to deal a heavy blow to German confidence.

Every nation now realizes the issues involved. There must be no relaxing of effort if the Allied grip on the wild beast is to be tightened into a stranglehold.

GERMAN CAMPAIGN IN RUSSIA—(*Continued from Page 7*)

whose main railway connexions all run northward, not eastward. The Russian Command in the Ukraine under Marshal Budenny is aware of the Nazi plans and has certainly taken precautions, as can be seen from the failure of the Nazis' direct thrust against Kiev.

The defence of Hangoe will probably rank among the most heroic stories of the war. Though frequently bombed and shelled, this Russian base is still holding out and even continuing to impede Nazi naval movements in the Baltic. The Russians say that the Gulf of Finland is not, as Germans pretend, thick with mines " like soup with meat balls." German mining from aircraft and casual minelayers is sufficiently thin not to impede Russian naval movements. Witness the repeated attacks on Nazi convoys bound for Finland. And the Russian air force continues to take heavy toll of Nazi planes on the front and of Nazi naval and merchant vessels in the Baltic.

The Soviet forces have delivered heavy hammer-blows in the Smolensk sector where the entire 137th German Infantry Division has been wiped out. The 253rd German Division has met with a similar fate. No wonder the Moscow paper *Pravda* says that this successful counter-attack is the first of a series of mighty Russian blows at German Fascism while the newspaper *Izvestia* claims that the Red Army has learnt how to smash the enemy. President Roosevelt has characterised the Russian resistance to Nazi aggression as magnificent and Mr. Harry Hopkins, his Special Envoy, during his visit to Moscow, doubtless thrashed out with M. Stalin the question of speedy aid to Russia.

THE NAZI 'PANZER' DIVISIONS

THEIR STRENGTH AND STRIKING FORCE

The German Panzer Divisions which smashed their way across Poland, France and the Balkans, are now engaged in Russia. Their strength is variously estimated. The Panzer Division has its own squadron of supporting aircraft which can be summoned very quickly to its aid; within each division, it is said, are a brigade of lorry-borne infantry, a mechanized reconnaissance unit, which, in the form of advance " clouds " of motor-cyclists, played such a prominent part in France, a regiment of field artillery, an anti-tank battalion, a heavy machine-gun battalion, and an engineer battalion carrying bridging equipment, besides a thorough system of ordnance field workshops, with a light aid detachment attached to every tank battalion. The core of this hurtling spearhead is the tank brigade, consisting of two regiments, each of two battalions of 100 light, medium and heavy tanks. The whole organization, swift and flexible, makes for a high degree of reconnaissance and hitting power under the hand of the foremost leader. A Panzer Division consists of 48 heavy tanks, 84 medium tanks, 252 light tanks, 230 troop carriers, 96 artillery, 27 dive-bombers, and 258 armoured motor cycles and nearly 1,000 other service vehicles, 4 battalions motorized infantry, engineers and signallers.

A Panzer Division—according to *War Illustrated*—Panzer is the German word for 'armoured'—comprises 400 tanks, divided into two brigades of two battalions each, but in addition to the tanks, each division contains a brigade of infantry carried on motor lorries, a reconnaissance unit of motor cyclists, a regiment of field artillery, an anti-tank battalion, a heavy machine-gun battalion, an engineer battalion, equipped for bridge and road construction and repair, and a mobile repair and supply unit. Furthermore, it has attached to it a squadron of aircraft for reconnaissance and dive-bombing operations. Altogether, the number of vehicles is about 3,000, all motor-driven, and the number of men is some 14,000. But perhaps the most important fact about a Panzer Division is that it is a *self-contained unit*, it is capable of acting on its own and does act as an individual army, receiving its direction from the divisional commander, who rides with his staff in the H.Q. armoured vehicle.

Germany has 15, or perhaps 16, of these armoured divisions, representing a total strength of more than 6,000 tanks. Three of the divisions are reported to be in Libya, and seven are believed to have been engaged in the fighting in the Balkans. Four sufficed to crush Poland, and ten triumphed in the Battle of France.

In each division there are usually heavy, medium and light tanks. The fast, light and medium models range from 18 to 20 tons; each is equipped with a 37 mm. gun (100 mm. are a little short of 4 inches) and 2 machine-guns, and its armour is about 30 mm. in thickness. It carries a crew of three. The heavy tank, which the Germans seemingly are coming to prefer, is a cruiser with a road speed of about 30 miles per hour. It weighs about 36 tons, but there has been talk of monsters of between 70 and 100 tons. Its armour is some 50 mm. thick, and it carries a 75 mm. gun and two machine-guns. It has a crew of five, and can carry a heavy load of ammunition. A model Pzwk 6 shown in Berlin in 1939 had armour of 75 mm. or 105 mm. and a 47 mm. anti-tank gun; its crew numbered eight.

When going into action the Panzer Division seeks to outflank, rather than to make a frontal attack. If, however, it is not possible to work round the enemy the motor cyclists and the light motorized unit probe the opposing defences, searching everywhere for a soft spot. As soon as this is found a wedge is driven in by dive-bombers and heavy tanks.

Once the line is penetrated, then the tanks spread out like an opening fan; and behind them, through the gap which they have caused, pour the rest of the Panzer Division. Far and wide throughout the countryside speed the motor cyclists and the light tanks, the heavies, the flying artillery, spreading confusion and destruction. The enemy communications are first threatened, then disrupted, severed, smashed. The civilian population are driven from their homes and become panic-stricken mobs. The opposing troops are cut off into isolated pockets of resistance, which may continue firing hours after the main battle has swept past and beyond them; they are left to be dealt with by the motorized infantry. So what was once a nibble has become a thrust; what was once a crack is now a breach, through which rushes a flood of armoured troops not to be withstood.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

Disaster for Goebbels

Never has the elaborate and expensive Nazi propaganda machine suffered such a hopeless and humiliating breakdown as in its attempts to cover up the poor performance of the German armies in Russia.

Apart from two small advances in the north and south, the front line remains where it was a week ago. Kiev, whose fall was described by the Germans as "imminent" a fortnight ago, is still firmly held. Smolensk, which the Germans claimed to have occupied on July 16, is still in Russian hands.

Yet Goebbels continues to print colourful word pictures of four million healthy young German giants opposed to a hopeless and decrepit rabble entirely devoid of stamina, enthusiasm and leadership.

India was told on July 21 that . . .

"The desperate efforts of the Bolsheviks to support their shaken ranks by flinging the Communist Youth Organisation of Women's battalions into the battle have not succeeded in restoring their position. As their last means the Soviets have now fallen back on the factory guards of the Petersburg works, strengthened by retired police officers and members of the fire brigade. Armed with cutlasses and muzzle-loaders, with machine-guns mounted in their rear, these unfortunate wretches are driven against the German tanks and shock troops in a mad attempt to stop the German drive. By hundreds of thousands these last defenders of Communism were killed or taken prisoner."

But three days later the Essen *National Zeitung* reminded its readers that "the Russian High Command has immense reserves; new masses of Soviet soldiers can always be mobilised to hurl against the German lines," and the *Frankfurter Zeitung* says, "Fortresses we thought we had captured have suddenly renewed their resistance, utilizing underground fortifications not noticed by our forces. Here and there we have been compelled to fight in territories we had considered conquered."

These factory guards, retired police officers and members of the fire brigade, with their cutlasses and muzzle-loaders, seem to know their stuff!

Bombs on Moscow

No more successful are the little doctor's lurid accounts of damage done in Moscow by German bombs. Of the hundreds of planes sent to *blitz* the Russian capital, not more than 4 per cent. have succeeded in ramming their way through the anti-aircraft barrage and night fighter opposition; at least 10 per cent of those that have got through have been brought down.

Walt Mittler, broadcasting from Berlin on July 23, said of these raids on Moscow, "Most likely important offices connected with the handling of the war have been damaged... ...And we must bear in mind also that Moscow is a most vulnerable spot of the Soviet war system, in so far as most of the institutions and offices vital for the war effort are pretty much concentrated there."

All very impressive. But, just 24 hours before Moscow's first air raid, Rome radio announced that "diplomatic circles in Moscow have confirmed the fact that the greater part of the Soviet Government offices have been removed from the capital. The only Government offices remaining are political offices." How now, Mr. Mittler?

Mussolini's Mediterranean

Reporting the attempted aerial *blitz* on a British convoy in the Mediterranean last week, the Italian War *Communiqué* (July 25) says :—

"The bombers sank a British vessel of 10,000 tons. The torpedo-carrying planes had sunk two additional large vessels, namely, a vessel of 2,000 tons and a tanker of 15,000 tons.

"A cruiser returning to Gibraltar was torpedoed by Italian planes while another warship of large tonnage was hit by a bomb of 500 kilograms. It is now learnt that an aircraft carrier was also damaged on July 23 by an Italian bomber. One of the damaged steamers has meanwhile sunk. The number of destroyed enemy planes has increased to eight while five Italian machines are missing."

British losses in this three-day attack were—

1 destroyer, damaged and later sunk by British units;

1 destroyer damaged;

1 merchant ship damaged, but safe in port.

6 aircraft, but four of the crews safe.

Italian losses were—

1 submarine probably destroyed;

1 E-boat damaged;

1 E-boat sunk;

12 aircraft shot down;

4 aircraft probably destroyed.

Broadcasting from London on July 26, the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. A. V. Alexander, reported that the convoy of troops

and munitions had—in spite of the Italian attacks—arrived at its destination safely and on time. "The destination for the convoy," he said, "was in a very dangerous spot. The route was through narrow waters close to enemy bases. The safe and timely arrival of the convoy meant reinforcements for our forces in the Mediterranean in ships, fresh troops, munitions and stores."

These facts seem to corroborate the sentiments expressed by the German official news agency in a despatch, dated May 27, 1941, which said :—

"The news published by the *Corriere della Sera* is entirely false, says the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as is all other news emanating from Rome."

E-boats v. Malta

But that does not prevent Berlin (July 27) from quoting an Italian Headquarters announcement that "the British naval base of Malta was attacked with unparalleled audacity by speedboats of the Italian Navy on Friday night." Explosions and flames are said to have been observed in the harbour, "proving that the daring Italian attack had been successful."

Speed is the trademark of the Italian Navy, which insists on being assured of a quick get-away before it even dares to launch an attack. In this operation speed was not enough to prevent retribution. Reports so far received indicate that eight speedboats attacked the harbour and eight speedboats were sunk by coast defence artillery and fighter attack. Three enemy aircraft, trying to give air support to these surface mosquitoes, were shot down.

British Air Offensive

With amazing frankness, Walt Mittler (July 23) remarked :—

"We must never underrate the activities of the Royal Air Force bombers and fighters. Our own efforts have calmed down at the moment, which is partly because we have other jobs to tackle in the East. So why not let the enemy have his fun if he likes it?"

Other Nazi broadcasters, however, tried to create a totally different impression.

On the same day that Mittler was on the air we were told that the people of Britain are "no longer satisfied merely with attacks by the British air force on Germany," especially, said the announcer, as these attacks are costing the Royal Air Force an average of ten aircraft a day.

Yet Royal Air Force losses over Germany and occupied territory in the preceding fortnight had averaged only six machines a day. When the *Luftwaffe* were raiding Britain on a similar scale last autumn they lost an average of 29 planes daily.

Nazis Uneasy

Reviewing offensive operations by the Royal Air Force on July 22, 23 and 24, Berlin (July 26) claimed that "while the British lost 102 planes in three days, the German losses during the same period amounted to only seven machines."

British and German air losses for these three days were :—

July 22	6 Royal Air Force fighters, 9 German fighters.
July 23	10 Royal Air Force fighters, 14 German fighters, 5 Royal Air Force bombers.
July 24	7 Royal Air Force fighters, 34 German fighters, 15 Royal Air Force bombers.

So the Royal Air Force lost 43 planes, *not* 102; while the *Luftwaffe* lost 57 machines—exactly 50 *more* than the German radio admits.

Recent German claims to have destroyed vast numbers of British aircraft are a measure of their growing uneasiness as the weight of the Royal Air Force offensive increases. It will be remembered that the same tactics were followed by Goebbels last autumn when, during the Battle of Britain, the German radio regularly broadcast figures which were almost exactly the reverse of the facts.

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

A Nazi Promise is a Nazi Threat

After a long and contradictory harangue about the Indian prisoners of war in Germany, Berlin's Hindustani broadcast of July 24 concludes with the fervent declaration that Germany has no enmity towards India.

The world, however, has witnessed the blood-stained record of the Nazis and rightly come to the conclusion that a Nazi promise is, more often than not, a prelude to Nazi violence. The following examples, which by no means comprise the whole catalogue of Nazi crimes, will suffice :—

Holland. "Germany will respect the inviolability and integrity of the Netherlands in all circumstances."—*German Minister at Hague, August* 26, 1939.—**Invaded and Occupied May 1940.**

France. "We want nothing from France. We have guaranteed France's frontiers for ever."—*Goering, September* 9, 1939.—**Dismembered and Plundered June 1940.**

Russia. "Never will Germany and Russia slaughter each other for the sake of Britain.... This agreement, which settles for all time the

relations between the two biggest European peoples, is of fundamental historical significance."—*Voelkischer Beobachter, September* 25, 1939.—**Attacked June 22, 1941.**

Indian Prisoners

The above Nazi broadcast also specifically mentions that the British Government is doing nothing for the Indian prisoners of war in Germany and that some of them are mere boys under 16. This lie is best answered by the fact that, during the last fortnight in January 1941 alone, the British Red Cross in England despatched 106,217 food, 1,551 clothing, 6,852 invalid food, 3,125 tobacco and 6,485 personal parcels to the British and Indian prisoners of war in Germany. Besides, the packing centre of the Indian Red Cross, which was opened in London after the collapse of the French Army in June 1940 when 300 officers and men of the Indian Transport Companies fell into German hands, has been doing useful work under the personal guidance of Mrs. Amery who has shown great drive in the organization of the Centre. Nearly 300 parcels are packed every week at a cost of approximately £150.

And as for the age of the Indian prisoners of war in Germany, it must be stated that the minimum age for recruitment is 17½ years.

Peace-making in Syria

Germany's Persian and Arabic broadcasts of July 27 charge the British with plundering Syria to feed the British troops in the Near East. Far from feeding the British troops on supplies from Syria, even during the campaign, Damascus was receiving consignments of Australian wheat—part of the 400 tons of food arriving daily in the Syrian capital. Now, of course, Syria's important trade with Palestine is resumed and the country enjoys all the advantages that British sea power and economic relations with the British Commonwealth afford.

The Syrians also remember their plight under Vichy (and Axis) control when a shortage of rice, coffee and sugar soon became obvious, and prices sky-rocketed. They also contrast the easy terms offered to them with those imposed on metropolitan France by Germany. Under Hitler's dispensation 2 million French men are held as prisoners of war and that country pays about £500 million a year as the cost of occupation—three times the amount of reparations demanded from Germany under the Dawes Scheme of 1924.

Syria's Holy Places

In its Persian and Arabic broadcasts of July 20 Berlin brazenly broadcast to the world imaginery stories of British excesses in Syria, including the defiling of sacred institutions. The utter untruth of these calumnies is proved by the message sent by the keepers of the world famous Al Aqsa mosque in the old city of Jerusalem. This message thanks General Wilson for the care taken by the Allied forces in Syria to avoid casualties among the civilian population and damage to civilian property, and expresses gratitude for food supplies distributed among the population in Syria.

Imagined Atrocities in Iraq

Dr. Goebbels' Hindustani, Persian and Arabic broadcasts of July 24 invent completely baseless stories about so-styled persecution and hangings in Iraq. The Nazis, furthermore, quote Ankara reports to confirm their wild stories. What Ankara really thinks of Britain's policy in Iraq is plain to everyone. The Turkish Prime Minister, Dr. Saydam, in his speech on July 5, declared: "British moderation and foresight in handling the Iraqi situation and her guarantee of Iraqi independence are worthy of Turkish praise and congratulation".

Food to French Somaliland

In their Arabic broadcast of June 22, the Germans accuse the British of wishing to starve women and children in French Somaliland.

Actually, General Wavell intimated the Governor of Jibuti (French Somaliland) last June that he must make up his mind either to join General de Gaulle's Free French forces immediately or dissociate himself from the pro-Axis policy. Even in the event of a refusal to negotiate on this proposal, General Wavell expressed his willingness to evacuate women and children and meanwhile to supply them with milk and essential foods until the evacuation is completed.

Battle of Germany

"During nominal raids on Germany," says the Nazi broadcasts in Hindustani, Persian and Arabic of July 21, "the British, from June 18 to July 18, lost 422 fighters and bombers."

The Nazis do not mention their own figures, and wildly exaggerate the British losses. Actually, during this period the British losses amounted to 239 as against Germany's 268. Some idea of the actual damage done during these so-called nominal raids may be had from the fact that between June 16 and July 10, the Royal Air Force dropped 1,000 tons of bombs on Cologne (raided 55 times in 1940) and more than 500 tons on Bremen (52 raids in 1940). Two thousand tons of bombs were dropped on targets in the Ruhr area, which was bombed more than 500 times in 1940. So important is the industrial Ruhr that the German paper, *Koelnische Zeitung*, is driven to conclude: "The destiny of the Ruhr is the destiny of Germany".

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 29th July 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrols (not specifically mentioned) over West European coastal waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
July 23, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France, including raids on objectives near St. Omer and Bethune; shipping off French coast (1 vessel sunk, 1 damaged). R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval bases at **La Pallice** (battleship *Scharnhorst*) and **Brest** (battleship *Gneisenau*, Cruiser *Prinz Eugen*); docks at Le Havre and Ostend; industrial areas in **Mannheim** and **Frankfurt-on-Main.**	10 day fighters 5 day bombers.	14 day fighters.
July 24, Thursday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France, including raids on railway yards at **Hazebrouck** and docks at **Cherbourg** (whale oil ship ablaze); R.A.F. day bomber raids on **La Pallice** and **Brest**; shipping off Norwegian coast (700-ton supply ship and 1,500-ton tanker sunk). R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval bases at **Kiel**, **Emden** and Wilhelmshaven; docks at Rotterdam. R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.	7 day fighters, 15 day bombers. 5 night bombers.	34 day fighters.
July 25, Friday.	(No reports of day activity—bad weather) .. .. R.A.F. night bomber raids on industries. docks and communications at **Hamburg** and **Hanover**; Berlin and other targets in N.W. Germany.	9 night bombers.	
July 26, Saturday.	R.A.F. day fighter patrols over French coast, including attack on patrol vessel off Boulogne. R.A.F. single day reconnaissance bomber attack on Emden. (No reports of night activity—bad weather.)	Nil.	1 day fighter.
July 27, Sunday.	R.A.F. day fighter patrols over English Channel .. R.A.F. night bomber attack on docks at Dunkirk .. R.A.F. Coastal Command minelaying operations in enemy waters. R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.	1 day fighter. 1 night bomber.	1 day fighter.
July 28, Monday.	(No reports of day or night activity—bad weather) ..	Nil.	..
July 29, Tuesday.	(No reports of day or night activity—bad weather) ..	Nil.	..

(*Continued on Page* 15)

DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

1st August.—Royal Air Force bombers scored hits on three ships in an enemy convoy off the Belgian coast; two bombers and one fighter were missing.

2nd August.—A heavily laden German tanker was hit and set on fire in a torpedo attack by aircraft of the British Coastal Command.

3rd August.—Germany's capital city, Berlin, was subjected to one of the heaviest attacks by four and two-engined bombers of the Royal Air Force. Many fires were started there as also at Kiel and Hamburg, the German naval bases. Fighter aircraft of the Royal Air Force made low-level attacks on a number of objectives in Northern France. An enemy patrol ship was set on fire and sunk off the Dutch coast by aircraft of the Royal Air Force Bomber Command.

Slight enemy activity was reported over Eastern England. There were no casualties.

4th August.—The Royal Air Force attacked industrial targets in Hanover and Frankfurt-on-Main. Docks at Calais were also bombed.

There was slight enemy air activity over the East Coast of England and Scotland.

6th August.—The Royal Air Force made conspicuously successful attacks on objectives at Mannheim, Frankfurt and Karlsruhe and scored direct hits on three patrol vessels and a 2,000-ton ship in an enemy convoy off the Dutch coast.

7th August.—An enemy tanker in the English Channel was set on fire by the Royal Air Force during offensive patrols over Northern France. An aerodrome at Cherbourg was attacked, as also objectives in West and South-East Germany.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

1st August.—The Royal Air Force made a successful raid on enemy shipping in the harbour of Messina in Sicily. Palermo, Benghazi, Gazala, Bardia and Dura were also attacked without any loss of British aircraft.

Patrol activity was reported in the Tobruk sector as well as artillery activity on the Egypt-Libya frontier.

There was one death but no damage when enemy planes dropped a few bombs in the Nile delta.

Hussein Sirry Pasha, Egypt's Premier, reconstructed his Cabinet, including five members of the Saadist Party.

3rd August.—Besides beating off an enemy dive-bombing attack on British warships off the North African coast, the Royal Air Force destroyed two merchant vessels off Lampedeusa Island, enemy aircraft at Borizoo in Sicily and petrol and munition dumps at Candia and at Malemi in the Island of Crete.

In addition to torpedoing an Italian cruiser in the Mediterranean, British submarines sank two enemy supply vessels and damaged a floating dock (within a mile of the Italian coast).

4th August.—The Italian High Command admitted attacks by the Royal Air Force and the South African Air Force on the airports of Catania in the Island of Sicily and Reggio on the Italian mainland in the Province of Calabria. Benghazi harbour in Libya was also bombed.

Mussolini, addressing Italian volunteers for the campaign against Russia, exhorted them to participate in the struggle between Fascism and Bolshevism, "the fifth act of the world drama".

It was announced in Rome that an Italian submarine had failed to return to its base from the Atlantic.

Seventeen persons were killed and 58 injured in an enemy air raid on the Suez Canal area.

5th August.—Italian harbours and aerodromes in Sardinia were subjected to British Naval and air attacks.

Ninety persons were killed and 106 injured in enemy air raids on the Suez Canal area. Enemy planes also raided Malta but there were no casualties or damage to military targets.

6th August.—Raiding parties from the British and Indian garrison at Tobruk seized a German post, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. The Royal Air Force bombed enemy bases in Libya.

Mr. Eden reaffirmed in the House of Commons Britain's intention to recognize the independence of Ethiopia.

7th August.—Three enemy bombers were shot down when they attempted to raid Malta.

UNITED STATES AND THE ATLANTIC

1st August.—Mr. Sumner Welles, acting United States Secretary of State, characterised as "barefaced impudence" Germany's action in urging Mexico to protest to the U. S. A. against the black-listing of certain Latin American firms working for the Axis Powers. Mexico rejected the German suggestion at once.

The sponsors of the U. S. Army Service Extension Bill agreed to a compromise proposal providing that the maximum service for drafted men should be two years and a half.

President Roosevelt directed the Export Control Administrator to prohibit the export of motor fuels and oils for use in aircraft to destinations outside the Western Hemisphere, the British Empire and the unoccupied territories of the countries resisting aggression.

2nd August.—A third Canadian division, commanded by Major-General C. B. Price, arrived in Britain.

Mr. Sumner Welles, who received the British Ambassador and the Australian and South African Ministers, declared that the attitude of U.S.A. towards the Vichy Government would be governed hereafter by the effectiveness with which France defended her territories against the aggression of the Axis Powers.

It was revealed that cash expenditure on the United States armaments programme for July amounted to a thousand million dollars—the largest monthly expenditure since the Great War.

3rd August.—Lord Halifax, British Ambassador in Washington, in an international broadcast to England and Canada, expressed confidence that the Allies would win the war.

4th August.—On his return to duty from a holiday, Mr. Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State, expressed confidence in the victory of the free peoples of the world.

5th August.—The U. S. House of Representatives passed the 3,206 million dollars Tax Bill.

6th August.—There was much speculation in Washington regarding a possible meeting in mid-Atlantic between President Roosevelt, who was officially reported to be continuing his cruise to an undisclosed destination in northern waters, and Mr. Churchill. The British Premier did not take part in the Commons debate on war and was apparently away from London.

WAR IN THE AIR—*(Continued from Page 13)*

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 29th July 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy attacks (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses
July 23	Nil.	2 night bombers
July 24	Nil.	1 day bomber.
July 25	Nil.	..
July 26	Nil.	..
July 27	Nil.	3 night bombers.
July 28	Nil.	..
July 29	Nil.	..

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

1st August.—Diplomatic relations were broken off between Great Britain and Finland.

Stubborn fighting in the Smolensk region saw the Germans thrown back with heavy losses.

Following the loss the previous day of one patrol ship in the Baltic and damage to another caused by Russian dive-bombers, Germany lost a destroyer and two large transports.

President Roosevelt described the Soviet resistance to the German onslaught as magnificent. His Special Envoy, Mr. Harry Hopkins, had a second conversation with M. Stalin at Moscow while the President himself received the Soviet Ambassador and the head of the Soviet Purchasing Mission at Washington.

2nd August.—The Soviet forces routed the 137th German Infantry Division in the Smolensk sector as also the 253rd German Division. There was no substantial change in the position of the troops at the front but many German ships and planes were destroyed.

3rd August.—The Finnish Press reported the presence of large British Naval forces in the Arctic, combined with big Russian troop concentrations. Russian activity on the entire Finnish front was increasing. In other sectors there were no substantial changes. The Germans claimed the capture of 10,000 prisoners in the Lake Peipus region; and also reported that " a great battle of annihilation " was in progress 150 miles south of Kiev. A combined German-Rumanian move over River Dniester was reported in the direction of Odessa, the Black Sea port.

Mr. Harry Hopkins left Moscow, where absolute confidence reigned in the Russians' ability to beat off the third German offensive which was being launched.

4th August.—Fierce battles raged in the Ukraine in the south and in Estonia in the north, where the Germans made fresh attempts to reach Leningrad and Odessa respectively. A German submarine was sunk in the Baltic and a Soviet submarine sank a German munitions ship in the vicinity of the Norwegian port of Vardo. A German tank column was wiped out by the Russians, over a thousand soldiers being killed.

5th August.—Fierce fighting was reported on the northern front in Russia where the Germans claimed the capture of the Estonian town of Pabst as well as of Kholm and Byelaya —Tserkov. The Russians, however, stated that bitter fighting was raging for these two latter cities. An attempt by German planes to raid Moscow was dispersed by Soviet night-fighters and anti-aircraft fire.

The annual trade agreement between Russia and the United States was renewed.

6th August.—A special announcement by the German High Command claimed a break-through at three points on the Russian front—south of the Pripet Marshes, in the direction of Smolensk and south of Lake Peipus. But it was evident that the Germans had not advanced substantially and had taken heavy punishment. Their pincers movement in the Ukraine was successfully held by the Russians. The Red Air Force was very active and a submarine of the Red Navy sank a German transport with troops and munitions in the Baltic Sea.

It was announced in Washington that the United States had unfrozen millions of dollars worth of Soviet orders in America and had sent the first consignment of arms to Russia.

7th August.—Six enemy planes were destroyed in the course of an air raid on Moscow.

THE BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, SYRIA, IRAN, ETC.

1st August.—An official statement issued in Teheran affirmed the Iran Government's determination to safeguard their neutrality and condemned alarmist rumours.

2nd August.—The Iran Consul at Karachi, in a statement to the press, characterized as being entirely without foundation the story that four German merchant ships now anchored at a Persian Gulf port were expected to slip out to the Indian Ocean to become raiders against British shipping off Indian and Arabian coasts.

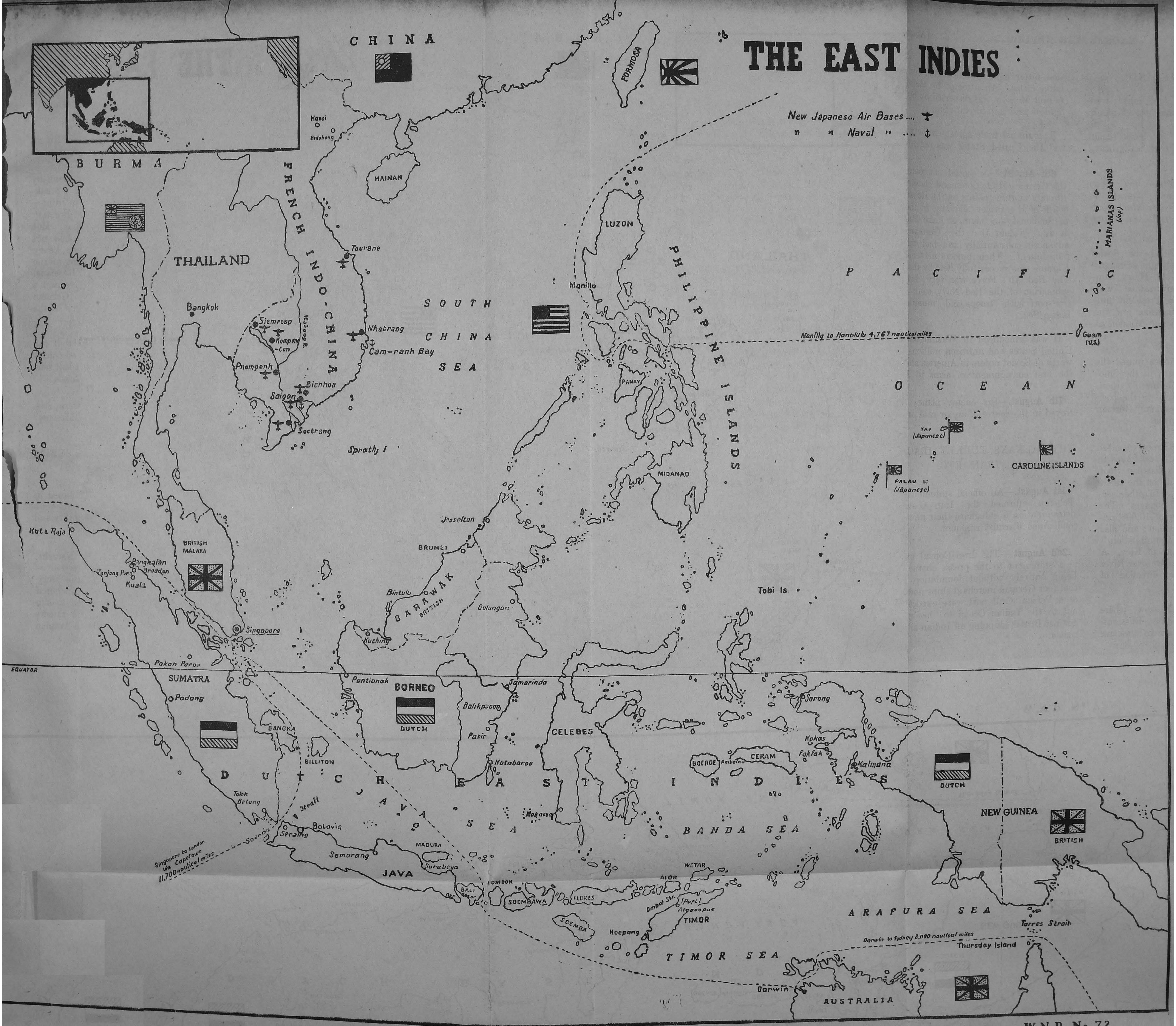
SHIPPING

2nd August.—One of the largest convoys to cross the Atlantic reached London safely with food and munitions.

The great increase in United States ship-building activity was stressed by the Navy Department, which reported that 109 shipyards were building naval vessels on July 1, compared with only 12 shipyards one year ago.

3rd August.—A Netherlands warship intercepted the French steamer Dupleix (7,135 tons), coming from Indo-China, and conducted her to Java for inspection of her cargo.

THE EAST INDIES



W.N.R. No. 72.

4th August.—The German steamer Frankfurt (5,529 tons) was intercepted by British patrols while attempting to run the blockade.

6th August.—Mr. Attlee declared in the House of Commons that the Battle of the Atlantic was definitely going in Britain's favour and announced that, in July, 69 enemy ships totalling 291,000 tons had been destroyed on the North Sea and off the Atlantic coast.

THE FAR EAST

1st August.—Following an extraordinary meeting of the Thailand Cabinet, it was reported that Japan had offered Thailand the Province of Laos and the ancient city of Angkor (in Indo-China) in exchange for a virtual monopoly of Thailand's production of rubber, tin and rice and the right to use certain naval and air bases. It was also stated that Thailand had recognized the Japanese puppet regimes in Manchukuo and occupied China and that a Thai banking syndicate had agreed to grant a credit of 16 million yen to the Yokohama Specie Bank.

2nd August.—Vice-Admiral Seichi Miimi, Supreme Commander of the Japanese Fleet in South China Waters, entered Saigon aboard his flagship while Major-General Sumita, head of the Japanese Military Mission in Indo-China, made a formal entry into the naval base at Camranh Bay.

It was announced that Japan was increasing the active personnel of her Navy.

3rd August.—Large Japanese troop movements towards Manchukuo were reported.

The Australian War Minister warned Australians to be alert to the danger from the north; and the Australian Navy Minister declared that the help that the U.S.A. was giving Great Britain in the Atlantic would enable the latter to send a fleet to the Pacific, if needed.

4th August.—Over 1,700 Japanese soldiers were killed in a Chinese counter-attack on the Yangtse River above Hankow. Heavy fighting was reported north of Ichang. It was stated that American and Russian pilots and planes were arriving in increasing numbers to help China.

It was reported that Japanese ships had suspended sailings to the United States.

5th August.—An Official Japanese spokesman indicated that Japan was making economic demands on Thailand.

A.R.P. exercises were ordered in Singapore. Two U.S. cruisers arrived in Brisbane on what was described as a training cruise.

6th August.—Mr. Eden (in the House of Commons) and Mr. Cordell Hull (at Washington) warned Japan that Great Britain and America would react swiftly to any movement by her, aimed at the integrity of Thailand.

VICHY

1st August.—Admiral Leahy, United States Ambassador, warned Marshal Petain against further concessions to Japan in the Far East.

Attacks by the German-controlled Paris Press on the members of the Vichy Government indicated further pressure by the Nazis towards a policy of "collaboration".

2nd August.—A German ultimatum was reported to have been rejected by the Vichy Government at the instance of Marshal Petain and General Weygand.

5th August.—Comte de Brinon, Vichy's representative in occupied-France, stated that "the French Government were absolutely decided not to break off the policy of collaboration" with Germany.

6th August.—The Vichy Govenment handed to the American Ambassador their reply to Mr. Sumner Welles' strong strictures on their surrender to Japan in Indo-China. They emphasised Indo-China's isolation from France and its consequent helplessness.

It was announced that Admiral Darlan would go to Paris "to confer with German quarters on outstanding questions".

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

2nd August.—The Stavanger Radio announced that the Reich Commissar for Norway had proclaimed a state of emergency throughout the country. Under this edict martial law would be proclaimed in specified districts or over the whole country. In the western and eastern coastal areas all radio sets must be surrendered to the authorities. The police were granted far-reaching powers to maintain order and martial law would be introduced wherever necessary. The death penalty could be imposed for violation of the regulations.

Resistance to the Germans was reported to be growing in Bulgaria and Rumania, also in Belgium where the Burgomaster of Brussels

had been sent to a concentration camp for asserting himself against the German military authorities.

3rd August.—The Royal Government of Greece decided to send a diplomatic mission to Moscow.

Marshal List, the German *blitzkrieg* specialist, was reported to be taking defence measures in Greece and other Balkan territories.

5th August.—An agreement signed by the Royal Norwegian Government (in London) and the Soviet Government announced the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

It was reported that three trains had been derailed by saboteurs in Bulgaria.

The outbreak of a big revolt in Montenegro was revealed in a Berlin despatch to a Swiss newspaper.

6th August.—Acts of sabotage were increasing in Belgium where the German army's petrol stores were reported to have disappeared. Following a bomb explosion, a collective fine of a million francs was imposed on the town of Malines.

In Czechoslovakia, it was reported that a consignment of arms at the Skoda works was blown up and, in the course of eleven railway accidents, 250 German officers and men were killed.

A revolt flared up in Belgrade.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

1st August.—The cessation of hostilities between Peru and Equador was announced in a Peruvian official communiqué.

Several arrests followed the discovery of another Nazi plot in Argentina. The Bolivian police also unearthed a Nazi organization in Bolivia.

3rd August.—President Camacho of Mexico declared that Mexico would not intervene in the war except in case of aggression against her or against another nation on the American continent.

Peru decided to cancel her agreement with Germany on the exchange of Diplomatic bags for official correspondence as the bags were being misused by German diplomats.

5th August.—Japan sent a note to Equador, demanding the suppression of anti-Japanese sentiment and the protection of Japanese nationals.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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